

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5507

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 123

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICO'S DECISION TO REFRAIN FROM FULL OPEC MEMBERSHIP

1. MEXICO'S DILEMMA OVER WHETHER OR NOT TO PROPOSE ITSELF FOR OPEC MEMBERSHIP SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED BY PRES. ECHEVERRIA. IN LAST FEW DAYS, ECHEVERRIA HAS PUBLICALLY AND PRIVATELY REPUDIATED ANY INTEREST IN FULL OPEC MEMBERSHIP AND REMOVED FROM OFFICE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY FLORES DE LA PENA, LEADING GOM ADVOCATE OF OPEC MEMBERSHIP.

2. DECISION TO TURN AWAY FROM OPEC SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PRECIPITATED BY INCREASING PRESIDENTIAL DISSATISFACTION WITH PUBLIC POSTURING OF LEFTIST FLORES, AND ANTI-CARTEL PROVISIONS OF TRA, AND SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT MEXICO HAS CHOSEN MIDDLE OF ROAD POSITION BETWEEN RADICAL-NATIONALISTS, WHO PUSHED FOR OPEC, AND THOSE SECTORS WHO FELT MEXICO OUGHT TO PLOT ITS OWN COURSE ON MATTERS OF PETROLEUM POLICY.

3. DECISION TO NOT SEEK OPEC MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT MEAN THAT MEXICO WILL NOT COLLABORATE WHERE POSSIBLE ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST WITH OPEC COUNTRIES NOR THAT MEXICO WILL ABANDON ITS COMMERCIAL POLICY OF SELLING AT OPEC PRICES. RATHER, MEXICO MUST CONTINUE

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TO SET TOP PRICES FOR ITS OIL BOTH TO MAXIMIZE MUCH

NEEDED REVENUES AS WELL AS TO JUSTIFY REMAINING
OUTSIDE PRODUCER ORGANIZATION.
BRANDIN

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Message Attributes

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